

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 07548 091824Z

62

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 NSC-05 (ISO) W

----- 106968

R 091200Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9112

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 7548

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN

SUBJ: HARCOS/FLETCHER

1. FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER CONCERNING THE HARCOS/FLETCHER CASE TO P.N. CHAR, PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER, ON JUNE 5.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR PROFESSOR DHAR: MAY I CALL YOUR ATTENTION AGAIN TO A PROBLEM WHICH HAS PERSISTENTLY TROUBLED THOSE OF US DEALING WITH INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS, NAMELY, THE CASE OF RICHARD HARCOS AND ANTHONY FLETCHER. I KNOW THAT YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE BACKGROUND OF THESE TWO AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO WERE ARRESTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL AUTHORITIES ON APRIL 26, 1973, AND SUBSEQUENTLY CHARGED WITH VIOLATIONS OF THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT. THEY HAVE BEEN HELD IN DETENTION IN CALCUTTA EVER SINCE.

3. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING HERE IN NEW DELHI THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DOES NOT IN FACT CONSIDER THAT THE CASE SHOULD BE HANDLED AS AN "OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT" PROBLEM BUT COULD WELL BE DISPOSED OF PROMPTLY ON LESSER CHARGES. UNFORTUNATELY EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A RESOLUTION OF THE MATTER ON THIS BASIS DO NOT THUS FAR SEEM TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. IN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 07548 091824Z

FACT WE HAVE RECENTLY LEARNED FROM OUR CONSULATE GENERAL IN

CALCUTTA THAT THE PROSECUTION PLANS TO RESUME ITS OFTEN-
DELAYED PROCEEDING UNDER THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT ON JUNE 17.
I HOPE YOU MIGHT PERSONALLY REVIEW THE CASE AGAIN AT THIS
TIME BECAUSE WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED THAT HARCOS AND FLETCHER
ARE PLANNING TO EMBARK ON A HUNGER STRIKE IN PROTEST
AGAINST THE LACK OF MOVEMENT IN THE CASE FOR THE PAST EIGHT
MONTHS. THE TWO AMERICANS EARLIER UNDERTOOK A 110-DAY HUNGER
STRIKE WHICH NOT ONLY ENDANGERED THEIR LIVES BUT ALSO GENERATED
CONSIDERABLE UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY IN THE UNITED STATES.
WITH THE CASE IN ITS THIRD YEAR AND THE TWO AMERICANS UNDER
DETENTION THIS ENTIRE TIME, FURTHER PUBLICITY CANNOT BUT BE
ADVERSE.

4. AS OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS MOVE TOWARDS AN IMPROVED RELATION-
SHIP ON MANY PLANES, A PROMPT RESOLUTION OF THIS TROUBLESOME
MATTER SEEMS ESPECIALLY APPROPRIATE. I APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS
IN THIS CASE IN THE PAST AND AM SURE YOU SHARE WITH ME THE
HOPE THAT THE LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEXITIES INVOLVED
CAN BE QUICKLY RESOLVED, THE CASE COMPLETED, AND
THE TWO AMERICANS ENABLED TO DEPART INDIA AS SOON AS

POSSIBLE. YOURS TRULY, DAVID T. SCHNEIDER, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES
AD INTERIM. END TEXT.
SCHNEIDER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE07548
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750200-1130
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750668/aaaackhn.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <25 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HARCOS/FLETCHER
TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN, (HARCOS), (FLETCHER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006